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Q This is what they are saying.

Q You said a minute ago there is no Middle East trip being planned. Does that mean you are flatly ruling it out? You know others have said there is a 50-50 chance we will go to the Middle East this year. Does that mean that that is now no longer the case?

MR. NESSEN: At the moment there are no plans for a Middle East trip. I think I have indicated to some people that the question of whether there is going to be any Middle East trip would depend entirely on whether there was a diplomatic need for it and the judgment of whether there is a diplomatic need for it has not been made and won't be made for, I would say, another month.

Q Ron, the Special Counsel to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency was quoted in the New York Times this morning as saying that "Congressman Pike will pay for this. You wait and see, we will destroy him for this." How does the President feel about a CIA employee carrying on a political vendetta about a duly elected Member of Congress.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know if that is an accurate quote. I think it is a second or third-hand quote. I think it is a second or third-hand alleged quote and I am not going to get into any things between the Pike Committee and the CIA.

Q Mr. Pike believes that the CIA is trying to discredit him and the Congress. Is the President not concerned about the seriousness of this charge?

MR. NESSEN: I am just not going to get into anything between the Pike Committee and the CIA.

Q Can you say whether the President is looking into it? It is a part of the Executive Branch.

MR. NESSEN: It is part of the Executive Branch. I have no idea whether that is an accurate quote or not.

Q We didn't ask you that. We are asking is the President looking in to see whether this is a fact or not?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check.

Q Ron, yesterday the President indicated that he was achieving his goal of full employment and Mr. Greenspan has said that goal -- and I believe it was in the economic report -- is not in fact achievable under the most recent calculations until 1980. I am wondering if in view of the decrease in unemployment in recent weeks that they have revised that goal and think that the full employment goal is achievable before 1980 now?

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Q Does Rogers Morton think so?

MR. NESSEN: Rogers Morton still thinks he will win but he is extremely cautious on the outlook.

Q Are you engaged in an exercise of poor-mouthing now?

MR. NESSEN: I am engaged in an exercise of trying to report to you accurately what Rog said to the President within the hour.

Q Is he more cautious because of the weather?

MR. NESSEN: That was the one thing that he cited -- the weather -- and the fact that Reagan has done a lot of campaigning down there in the past few days and hit out very hard.

Q Ron, how is the weather in places where the President is strong like St. Petersburg?

MR. NESSEN: Rog mentioned only the weather in Northern Florida.

Q Which is where Reagan is strongest, is that not true?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. That is my understanding.

Q Ron, there was a wire service story this morning to the effect attributed to the United States intelligence sources that the Government of India was restrained by the Soviet Union from selling engines for MIG planes to Egypt. Can you confirm this report that the intelligence services are putting out?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about it, Jim.

Q You have no information?

MR. NESSEN: This is the first I ever heard of it.

Q Ron, can I go back to the bad weather in Northern Florida?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is Morton assuming that Reagan's supporters are more zealous and therefore would go out in the bad weather more so than Ford's?

Q Ford has fair weather friends.

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